

## SEPARATION PARTICLES

### ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

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A composition comprising colloidal  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  particles coated with streptavidin is disclosed. These particles can be used in a method for separating biotinylated compounds from a solution in which the biotinylated compounds bind to the streptavidin-coated particles which are attracted to a surface by a magnet. Also disclosed is a method for making  
10 said streptavidin-coated composition, said method comprising the steps of forming colloidal  $\text{Fe}_3\text{O}_4$  particles by mixing aqueous  $\text{FeCl}_2$  with aqueous  $\text{FeCl}_3$ , adding aliquots of the mixture to an alkaline solution and adding streptavidin.